

News Release

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For Immediate Release



TO:

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Aggressive plan targets dramatic particulate reduction December 18, 19 workshops seek public comment

(Fresno, Calif.) – Continuing its accelerated progress toward cleaner air for the San Joaquin Valley, the Valley Air District will host public workshops on Tuesday, December 18 and Wednesday, December 19, 2007 to gather input on a draft plan to dramatically reduce fine-particulate air pollution.

The draft “2008 PM2.5 Plan” is designed to reduce emissions that create high levels of fine-particulate matter, also known as PM2.5 (particulates with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less), in the atmosphere. Federal, health-based standards set limits on PM2.5 concentrations averaged over 24 hours and over a year. The plan will undergo several months of public review and discussion before being considered for adoption by the District Governing Board in spring 2008.

“As we have demonstrated in other plans, the District is determined to meet health standards far in advance of mandated deadlines,” said Seyed Sadredin, the District’s executive director and air pollution control officer.

The first public workshops on the plan are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 18 and at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at the Air District’s central office in Fresno, at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. The workshops also can be attended by video-conference at the District’s regional offices: 2700 M Street, Suite 275 in Bakersfield and 4800 Enterprise Way in Modesto.

The PM2.5 plan draws heavily on nitrogen oxides emission reductions from the 2007 Ozone Plan, calls for additional nitrogen oxides emission reductions, and proposes rule amendments to reduce emissions of directly emitted PM2.5 and of sulfur dioxide, both of which also contribute to high levels of fine particulates in the atmosphere. New emission control measures proposed in the PM2.5 Plan affect a variety of sources, including wood-burning fireplaces and heaters, industrial boilers, residential furnaces and water heaters. The plan presents a combination of regulatory and incentive measures to control PM2.5.

The draft plan is available online at www.valleyair.org or by calling any of the District’s offices: (559) 230-6000 in Fresno, (661) 326-6900 in Bakersfield and (209) 557-6400 in Modesto.

Through the plan development and workshop process, the Air District is seeking information on: the technological and economic feasibility of the measures in the plan; if any significant opportunities have been overlooked; how soon new regulations can be adopted; how quickly affected businesses could comply; how quickly new and developing technologies can be placed in service; and other issues. The comment period for this draft will close on January 9, 2008.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and portions of Kern.